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ONCE-IN-A-CENTURY CYCLONE HEADING TOWARDS MUMBAI

Cyclone Nisarga is set to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and cross Maharashtra and South Gujarat coast on Wednesday

LANDFALL LIKELY TO BE AT ALIBAUG

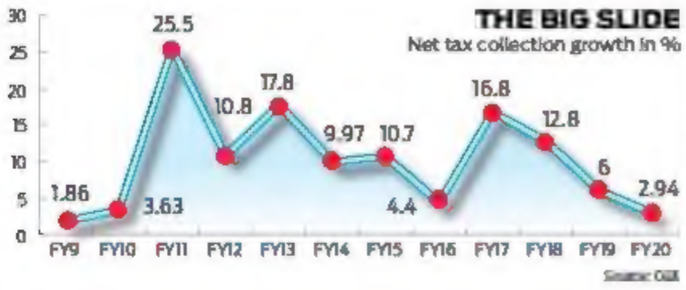
The storm will cross North Maharashtra and adjoining South Gujarat coast between Harihareshwar and Daman on June 3 afternoon as a severe cyclonic storm, the India Meteorological Department said. Landfall is likely to be at Alibaug, 95 km from Mumbai, but will have an impact on Mumbai. This could be the first cyclone in over a century to directly hit Mumbai

FLOOD ALERT IN MUMBAI, THANE

- The cyclonic storm could pose another challenge for Maharashtra which is already battling a steep surge in coronavirus cases
- 16 NDRF teams have been deployed in Maharashtra
- An alert has been issued for Mumbai city and suburbs, Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts | P7,10

120 kmph
THE PROJECTED GUSTING SPEED OF NISARGA AT THE TIME OF LANDFALL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI



Net tax revenue growth plunges to 12-year low

Excluding states' share, expansion in tax collections petered out to 2.94% in FY20

SUNITHA NATTI @Hyderabad

GROWTH in net tax revenues fell to a decade-low of 2.94 per cent in FY20, shows an *Express* analysis.

The sharp decline in net tax collections, which exclude states' share, perhaps explains the government's reluctance to open up the money spigots and deploy an aggressive stimulus plan to aid economic recovery following the 68-day lockdown.

It was in FY10 that we've seen growth in net taxes plunge to 3.63 per cent. A year before, or during the year of global financial crisis in FY09, growth stood at an even dismal 1.86 per cent. Barring these two years, the increase in net and gross tax collections grew at a healthy clip despite having a low tax base.

For the National Democratic Alliance government, which has been in power since 2014, this is the third such instance when growth fell to single digits. In both FY16 and FY19, net taxes grew at a pale 4.4 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. Still, it was shades better than FY20's 2.94 per cent.

Needless to say, a higher growth allows the government to flex its muscles and spur public spending — be it on social services or infrastructure.

Data released by the Controller General of Accounts last week show that in absolute numbers, FY20 net tax collections printed at ₹13 lakh crore against the revised budget estimate of ₹15 lakh crore, translating into a shortfall of nearly ₹1.5 lakh crore.

Revised FY20 budget estimates peg gross tax collections, comprising income taxes, goods and services tax (GST) collections and others at ₹21 lakh crore. Of this, states' share stood at 30 per cent, or ₹6.5 lakh crore.

If you include states' share, chances are the shortfall in gross tax revenue could be much higher than projections. But that's not the most terrifying part.

With the lockdown delaying economic recovery, which already dented tax revenue by a mile, analysts expect FY21 shortfall in net tax collections to be even sharper. A recent SBI Research estimate pegged the shortfall to be as much as ₹4.12 lakh crore.

Even though the government projected net tax collections to grow by a modest 8.7 per cent in FY21, going by the actual collections, we need a growth rate of nothing less than 20 per cent this fiscal, which seems to be a tall task for now.

YOUR NEWSPAPER IS TOTALLY SAFE

Trump, Modi discuss China aggression, G7 expansion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

WALKING the talk on expanding the Group of Seven (G7), US President Donald Trump on Tuesday formally invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to its next in-person summit in Washington. The two leaders also extensively discussed Chinese aggression in the Ladakh region.

However, the prime minister's office issued a bland statement without sharing details. "The two leaders also exchanged views on other topical issues, such as the Covid-19 situation in the two countries and the situation on the India-China border," the statement read. It also said "the richness and depth of India-US consultations remain an important pillar in the post-Covid global architecture".

Also, who initiated the call was not clear at the time of going to Press.

A few days ago, Trump had put off the summit saying the G7 does not represent the world. He wanted to get Russia, Australia, Korea and India on board. Signalling his acceptance, Modi said India would be happy to help make the summit a success.

India would be happy to work with the US and other countries to ensure the success of the proposed G7 Summit
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The interaction between Trump and Modi came on a day when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh acknowledged there is a significant presence of Chinese troops near the LAC. Singh said the face-off between Indian and Chinese troops would be deliberated upon at a 'senior level' on June 6. "The difference arose regarding the perception of LAC. The Chinese have come in good numbers but India has also done whatever is required to be done," Singh said.

Last week, Trump had offered to mediate between India and China but was snubbed by both New Delhi and Beijing.

Singh expressed hope the escalation would be resolved like in the past. "Earlier differences like in Doklam have been resolved with talks at the military and diplomatic levels."

A demonstrator (above) taken into custody by police during curfew, near the White House in Washington on Monday | AP | PTI

DON THREATENS TO DEPLOY MILITARY
President Donald Trump threatens to deploy the military to control the unrest in the US following the death of black man George Floyd in police custody

PHOTO-OP AT CHURCH
Trump visits St. John's Church near White House, also called the sitting President's church, after protesters were forcefully evicted from the neighbouring Lafayette Park; does not pray, but holds a copy of the Bible for a photo-op. Bishop Mariann Budde shares her outrage

388 Cases added, influx a worry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FOR a state which has managed to keep Covid-19 cases down and even earned praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the surge in numbers due to the influx of people from the worst-affected Maharashtra is turning out to be a big headache. On Tuesday, a record 388 positive cases were registered, with more than 300 cases being Maharashtra returnees. Udupi and Kalaburgi districts saw the highest number of cases with 150 and 100, respectively in a single day. With this, the total count in the state now stands at 3,796.

While the state is expecting more number of cases in the coming days, a total of 1,64,955 families, whose registrations have been approved on the Seva Sindhu portal as of May 25, are expected to return from the neighbouring state, according to data released by the state Covid war room.

On Tuesday, of the 150 cases in Udupi, 148 were returnees from Maharashtra, while the other two had returned from Goa and Andhra Pradesh. In Kalaburgi, all the 100 cases were Maharashtra returnees. In Belagavi district, with the third highest number of 51 cases, 46 had returned from that state while others were returnees from Gujarat and Delhi, and one contact is being traced. All the 16 cases in Raichur too are Maharashtra returnees.

While Bengaluru Urban saw 12 cases, six of them are contacts of previous patients, three patients' contacts are still being traced and three were Delhi returnees. Bidar recorded 10 cases, while Hassan and Bagalkot registered nine cases each. Here too, all were Maharashtra returnees.

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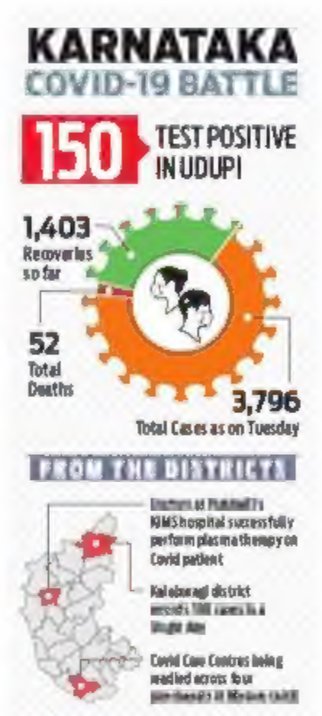

KARNATAKA
COVID-19 BATTLE
150 TEST POSITIVE IN UDUPI
1,403
Recoveries so far
52
Total Deaths
3,796
Total Cases as on Tuesday
FROM THE DISTRICTS
Doctors at Mallige's KIMS hospital successfully perform plasma therapy on Covid patient
Kalaburagi district records 100 cases in a single day
Covid Care Centres being readied across four

PC, SON CHARGESHEETED IN INX SCAM

P Chidambaram

Karti Chidambaram

Outed by Indrani
Chidambaram was outed by Indrani Mukerjea, former co-owner of INX Media. She has since turned approver

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

MONTHS after it arrested former Union minister P Chidambaram, his son Karti and a few others, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a chargesheet against them in the INX Media money laundering scam. The ED filed a password protected e-chargesheet against them before the court of Special Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar here on Monday.

Chidambaram was arrested by the CBI in the INX Media case on August 21 last year. Two months later, the ED arrested him. The CBI probe found kickbacks in a Foreign Investment Promotion Board clearance to the INX Media for receiving overseas funds of ₹305 crore in 2007, during Chidambaram's tenure as the Union finance minister.

NUMBER GAME

RS polls raise political heat in Karnataka

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

AMID the Covid-19 pandemic, the state is set to witness hectic political activity in the next two weeks. Elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from the state will be held on June 19 and the last date for filing nominations is June 9. The RS polls have been necessitated as tenure of Rajeev Gowda and B K Hariprasad of Congress, Prabhakar Kore of BJP and Kupendra Reddy of JDS will end June 25.

While the parties are yet to decide on candidates, lobbying has started in the BJP, which can easily win two of the four seats. It is not clear if the party will field a third candidate too or support an independent.

KPCC president-elect D K Shivakumar is said to be keen on suporting JDS supremo H D Deve Gowda. Sources pointed out that such a move will help him have a better rapport with the JDS and more importantly, the dominant Vokkaliga community.

DETAILS: P3

Govt mulls reopening schools from July 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Government seems to be considering reopening schools from July 1 for the new academic year 2020-2021. This follows a meeting with department officials on Monday.

However, the dates will be finalised after getting feedback from all stakeholders — which includes parents.

The admission process can begin before that - June 8 — as per a circular by Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar.

As per the tentative schedule, Classes 4 to 7 will begin on July 1, Classes 1 to 3 on July 15 and Classes 8 to 10 on July 15 (owing to the SSLC Board examination which will end only on July 4), and pre-primary classes on July 20.

The Karnataka Government has proposed three models of resumption of classes for the new academic year — ensure social distancing and hold classes as usual; divide the entire strength of class into two batches of morning (8 am - 12 noon) and afternoon (1 pm - 5 pm); hold classes for various grades on alternate days.

All primary, higher primary and high school heads, teachers, parents and school management committee members/SDMC members need to convene a meeting and give a feedback on the proposed models and schedule.

Private and unaided schools are expected to open on June 5 for eliciting suggestions from parents and stakeholders.

CONTINUED ON: P5

BACK TO SCHOOL
- The State Govt proposes, Classes 4-7 will begin on July 1; Classes 1-3 and Classes 8-10 on July 15; Pre-primary to start on July 20
- Reopening Dates to be finalised following feedback from all stakeholders, including parents
- Admission process can begin by June 8, as per a circular from minister S Suresh Kumar

EXPRESS READ

Jarkiholi, Gopalaiah get district charge

Bengaluru: CM B S Yediyurappa on Tuesday appointed ministers Ramesh Jarkiholi and K Gopalaiah in charge of Belagavi and Hassan districts, respectively. Meanwhile, the government also appointed BJP MLA Mahesh Kumathalli as Chairman of the Karnataka Slum Development Board. P5

Tirumala to begin darshan rehearsals

Tirupati: The famous hill temple of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala here is gearing up to lift its over two month-long Covid-induced lockdown ban on devotees' entry, as it will conduct rehearsals of darshan for its staff for two or three days from June 8 with strict protective measures. P7

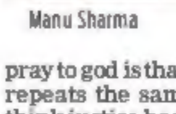
JESSICA LAL'S MURDERER MANU GETS TO WALK OUT OF TIHAR JAIL

KANU SARDA @New Delhi

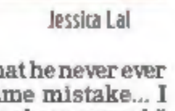
CLOSE to 17 years after he was sentenced to life for pulling the trigger to murder model Jessica Lal in 1999 at a night club, Manu Sharma was set free on Monday. Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal accepted the recommendation by the Sentence Review Board on the grounds of good behaviour.

Lodged in Tihar Jail, Sharma was on parole since the first week of April as part of measures to prevent crowding of jails in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Jessica's sister Sabrina Lal was okay with the release. "Honestly speaking I don't have any reaction. I am feeling completely numb. The only thing I pray to god is that he never ever repeats the same mistake... I think justice has been served."



Manu Sharma



Jessica Lal

This was the sixth time Sharma's plea for premature release was placed before the board, which is under the Delhi Government. For the board to consider premature release, a jail inmate has to fulfil three broad criteria: show good conduct; get a police recommendation for release; and an assessment on rehabilitation by a social investigation report.

According to prison officials, Sharma's release was cleared because of good conduct in jail and his contribution in helping rehabilitate families of underprivileged prisoners. He funded the education of more than 500 children of prisoners and gave business ideas to promote the Tihar Jail's brand.

Along with him, 18 other convicts were freed. Any convict who has completed 14 years in prison without remission is eligible for early release.

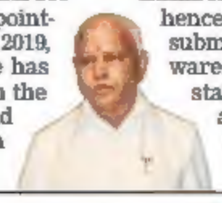
In 2018, Sabrina had said she had forgiven Sharma. "His conviction was closure for me," she had said. Sharma's lawyer Amit Sahni approached the Delhi High Court in November 2019, seeking his client's release.

No more paper, CM will hit 'OK' on e-files only

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

COVID-19 times call for abundant caution and technology is bridging the physical distance in many aspects. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has now instructed officials that henceforth, no physical files should be brought to his office, and instead, the officials concerned should send files for clearance only on the e-office software.

In a letter to the Chief Secretary, ministers and their secretaries, the CM has pointed out that as of May 2019, the e-office software has been implemented in the State Secretariat and all communication between the CMO and the Secretariat is already being done on the software.



In the light of the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, henceforth, files should be submitted through the software. It should also be installed in the offices of all ministers and communication should be through this, the CM has said.

From January 1 this year, heads of all departments, Regional Commissioners, district Deputy Commissioners, CEOs of Zilla Panchayats, Police Commissioners and Deputy Conservators of Forest have already started using the software for official communication.